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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:) Lola M. REID *et al.*
:
Application No.:) 10/645,610
:
Filed:) August 22, 2003
:
For:) PROLIFERATION OF
: HEPATOCYTE PRECURSORS
:)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed October 19, 2004, Applicants elect Group 1, claims 1-10, drawn to a liver precursor cell capable of differentiating into biliary cells, with traverse. Traversal is on the grounds that a search of the art for one group of claims will necessarily include a search of the art for Group II, Claims 11-20, which are drawn to a genetically engineered hepatocyte precursor cell. It is believed that the burden on the Examiner to examine all claims in a single application is less than the burden on the Applicants to prosecute more than one application.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider rejoining claims 11-20 if any of claims 1-10 are granted.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Villacorta', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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Date: October 28, 2004
Patent Administrator
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